

The 245er
SERVING: the NATION - the VETERAN -
the CROSS PLAINS & MIDDLETON COMMUNITIES

CROSS PLAINS-MIDDLETON AMERICAN LEGION

Kerl-Endres-Brannan

Post 245

March 2026

Lest-We-Forget

Let us pause and remember those Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of American Legion that have gone on to their reward and may our thoughts and prayers rekindle their souls with our heavenly Father.

Post 245 Sick Call

Chaplain Tim Engling

Paul Dull – Nursing Home
Dennis Jones – Home

Ralph Schulenberg – Home
Joanne Dodge – Nursing Home

Albert Oleson – Nursing Home

Please keep all these members in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to recover from their conditions.

Upcoming Events

March		April	
05	Lions Club	02	Lions Club
15	Pancake Breakfast	16	Legion, SAL, Aux meeting
19	Legion, SAL, Aux meeting	28	Model T Club
31	Model T Club		

Need to include something in the Newsletter? Email Carol Yttri at carolyttri@gmail.com or call 608-516-5970. Please get information to me before the 1st of the month.

ADDRESS CHANGE OR REMOVAL for newsletter: If you are moving or would like to be removed from the mailing list for the newsletter contact Gary Itten at gijacondo@gmail.com, or 608-225-4722, or Flo Bayer at thebayes1@gmail.com or 608-798-4671.

HALL RENTAL: There is a special rental rate for members to use the building. If you would like to inquire about renting the hall, please contact Debby Niebuhr at americanlegioncp@gmail.com or 608-445-6590.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT: If you are in need of medical equipment, the Legion has some on hand. Please contact Dennis Heiliger at 608-798-2301. Leave message if no answer and he'll get back to you.

Someone ill or in the hospital? Call Chaplain Tim Engling at 312-371-0034 or e-mail timengling@gmail.com

OFFICERS: POST COMMANDER	Steve Zanon	608-213-9530
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT	Flo Bayer	608-444-8199
S.A.L. COMMANDER	Kevin Boehnen	608-798-2113

Post, Auxiliary & S.A.L meetings Third Thursday of month: Social hour 6pm; Dinner 6:30pm; Meeting 7:30pm
Executive Board Meeting: Third Thursday of the Month 5:30pm.

Website: www.americanlegioncp.org

Commander's Message

Steve Zanon

Greetings 245 members and family;

Firstly, no one in the American legion will ever ask you to purchase anything for any members on behalf of leadership. If anyone asks you via email or other, while pretending to be, say me, or Scott from county, or Dan from district, etc. to purchase gift cards to surprise other members, you are being scammed! It has been attempted twice now that I am aware of, and without success.

Well March is here, and our springtime routine should start rolling in earnest. We will be hosting a Pancake breakfast March 15th from 0800-noon, and Doug Deaton asks for volunteers for this. We will have our regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday night March 19th. If history is any indicator, it should be Corned beef and Cabbage for dinner: a time-honored favorite.

We Lost a 245 member Kenneth Goss in early January, and on Feb 27th we paid tribute with a rifle salute at his funeral service at St Luke's in Middleton. Ken was a WWII veteran and 99 years old when he passed.

Post wide elections will occur this spring, and march is an excellent time for you to consider taking a leadership role in on of our many executive positions or heading one of several committees that are currently or will soon be without leadership.

Joe Hodgson has been busy promoting Badger Boys State program at a Middleton High school assembly. He has also been reaching out to members whose membership has lapsed. Thank you Joe.

Our membership numbers are still lagging, please if you have not yet paid your 45 dollars for the year, or are unsure, please check with Emily Cash.

That's all I have for now,
Hope to see you at the pancake breakfast and at our March meeting.
Steve Zanon, Commander, Post 245

Chaplain's message:

Tim Engling

In January 2026, the Post provided an honor guard for a fellow veteran who passed away in Cross Plains. Stay warm!

AMERICANISM: Joe Hodgson

Auxiliary Badger Girls State Rep Joanna Richards and myself attended a Breakout session at Middleton High School on Wednesday, February 18 for the purpose of educating students on BGS/BBS for the coming year. Moderator was teacher Stephanie Mayer who organized the session, included hearing former attendees review their experiences last year at Badger Girls State at UW Oshkosh and Badger Boys State at UW Eau Claire. Post 245 will be sponsoring students to both again this June. Joanna is also a Counsellor at BGS.

We had a contestant for the Oratorical Contest but unfortunately that student cancelled due to personal reasons. The County Oratorical Contest was won by a Mt. Horeb student, who will represent Dane County at the District contest at Barneveld on Saturday, March 7. The contest is open to the public.

Pancake Breakfast – Doug Deaton

Volunteers needed for the St. Patrick's Day Breakfast on Sunday, March 15, 2026. There are time slots and various tasks available between 7:15 am and noon. Please contact Doug Deaton by text or phone at 608-630-4633 or email at casliti@gmail.com if you can help.

Notes from Adjutant Gary Itten:

Please send in your dues to Emily Cash, 7780 Martinsville Rd., Cross Plains, WI 53528 or renew online at mylegion.org. We are 21 members short of 100% for 2026.

I want to thank Bill Herriges for taking over the flag route program and he also will be doing the flag route that was open. Still looking for someone to help him with that route. Give me a call at 608-225-4722 or email at gijacondo@gmail.com if interested.

At our May meeting we will have elections of officers for the next two years. We will be taking nominations at the April meeting. Please consider running for a position.

Red Cross Blood Drive

March forward and help save lives! Come to a **Red Cross blood drive March 25 from 1:00 to 6:00 pm** at **St Martins Lutheran Church**. You'll receive a \$15 Amazon Gift Card by email when you come to donate in March. Schedule here: <https://rcblood.org/4hmoNte>

Metal drop off:

If you have metal to recycle, you can drop off at the legion or give Dan Cady a call and we will pick up. 608 438 2987. You can also call Dave Vidlock 608 798 3087 or 608 843 6968.

Auxiliary Newsletter

Hello 245'ers!

President Flo Bayer

I love that March brings us springtime! The longer daylight hours, the tease of warm weather, a few early Red Winged Blackbirds at my feeders and hearing the distinct calls of the Sandhill Cranes as they were flying across the barnyard this morning are welcome signs. I'm looking forward to seeing you at our March 19th meeting where we can catch up with each other and celebrate the American Legions 107th birthday. Even though we haven't met since November, some have kept busy with fundraising and committee work. Many thanks to Culvers Cross Plains and all of you who supported our share night on President's Day. Our **Legion Family Pancake Breakfast is Sunday March 15th**, stop by 8-noon with your appetite. Contact Doug Deaton or Deb Niebuhr if you can work.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION

Celebrate Women of Service on March 8

To honor the remarkable women in our lives, the ALA Foundation is celebrating its fourth "Celebrating Women of Service" day alongside International Women's Day on March 8. Join us by donating in honor of a woman who inspires you, just as the ALA community inspires this special day of giving. Show your appreciation for

women dedicated to service and volunteerism by supporting a cause that leaves a lasting impact.

Let's make March 8 a day to honor the power of women in the ALA community. Give online or by texting WOMAN to 1-844-940-3450.

Scan here to make a gift:

Looking for Veteran poppy makers – From Dept: *Wisconsin is one of the few states that still produces the traditional crepe paper memorial poppy, handmade by veterans, for distribution by the American Legion Family across the state. The Poppy Program provides a small source of income to the veteran poppy makers and ensures a regular stream of revenue for Department to provide the many services and programs offered throughout Wisconsin. Twenty percent of all poppy profits is returned to Department and shared equally between the VA&R and Children & Youth programs. The remaining profit is restricted for use to benefit veterans, military and their families.*

If you know any veterans who may be interested in becoming a Poppy Maker for the ALA-Wisconsin Poppy Shop, please have them contact Poppy Shop Supervisor Bonnie Jakubczyk at wipoppyshop@yahoo.com.

Purple Up – April 15th is National Purple Up Day where we thank our Military Kids. We are looking for children, or grandchildren with parents currently serving whether Active, Reserves or National Guard. We would like their name, address, which parent(s) are serving, branch and status. This year we are gifting kids up to 12 yrs old. You can email information to dniebuhr@chorus.net or call 608 445-6590. We'd like information now as we will put the bag together in March & get it to the children by the middle of April. If you'd like to make a monetary donation to help with costs, make a check to ALA Unit 245.

Virginia Faust Scholarship – Sandra Faust

The Virginia Faust Scholarship is available to seniors in high school and son, daughter, step-son, step-daughter, grandchild, step-grandchild, niece, or nephew of an Auxiliary member, Veteran, active-duty military, National Guard or Reserves. Please contact Sandra Faust at 1-608-219-7644 or wbuschma@gmail.com. The scholarship application is due May 1, 2026. We are close to having an online application form available.

ALA Badger Girls State – JoAnna Richard

[June 21-26th, 2026 Government & Leadership Conference](#)

Needed: Members to help for the week or even a few days, check out a list of service opportunities at: <https://www.alabgs.org/alabgs-volunteer-info>.



Officer positions are open for nominations. I know we have lots of big hearts and talent in our auxiliary family. You can nominate yourself or someone you think is a good fit. Please let me or Deb Niebuhr know if you would like more information or are willing to serve any of the positions. Voting will take place at our April meeting with installation of officers in May. You are needed and can make a difference!

American Legion Auxiliary Mission Statement: *In the spirit of Service, Not Self the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.*

Lunch Committee – Jane Itten

If you can't make a dessert or help set up at 6pm and clean up after dinner, call or email Jane 608-712-3133, gjacondo@gmail.com so I can get someone to cover. Please feel free to leave a message.

- March 19th - Marilyn Sagmoen, Bernie Harrington, Judy Eisner, Gail Curran, Deb Niebuhr

Service Opportunities

- March 15th – Pancake Breakfast (2 shifts 7-9:45 & 9:45-Noon)
- March 25th 1pm-6pm – Give blood, St. Martins Lutheran Church
- Purple Up - tbd
- June 21st-26th – Badger Girls State 1or more days

Membership – Debby Niebuhr

We'll be collecting dues, need them by the end of July; if you want to pay in May or June to beat the rush feel free to mail your check to me at PO BOX 3 CP; otherwise if you want to use your credit card, we'll let you know when they open up the phone lines or website, usually mid July. Dues are the same this year \$35. for Seniors (18+) and juniors (0-17) are \$6.00.

We are looking for officers, please consider taking on the 2 year commitment. It's good to have new blood and ideas. It really goes quickly and you will have lots of support. THANKING YOU FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT!

Sons of The American Legion

Kevin Boehnen

Monthly Meeting – Joint meeting with the Legion will be on March 19th this month.

Flags – If you need a flag please contact Rod Faust at 608 576 4803.

Ray Faust Scholarship

The Son's Of the American Legion Post 245 annually gives out a scholarship in memory of Ray Faust. Everyone in the surrounding area is eligible to apply for this scholarship. As always we encourage sons and daughters and grandsons and granddaughters of Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members to apply. If you know any good candidates from the surrounding communities also encourage them to apply.

If you are interested in applying for the Ray Faust SAL Scholarship of \$500.00 please contact Ron Faust at 2129 Caesar St Cross Plains, WI 53528, 608 225 7281 or by e-mail ronaldf Faust@reagan.com. We would like all applications turned in by May 1st.

Recyclable Run

On February 17th the Sons of the American Legion worked on clearing out Recyclable area. Would like to thank Steve (Whitey) Hillebrand, Tim Hillebrand, Mike Diebold, Tom Helleckson, Jack Regan, Rich Roberts and Brad Niebuhr for helping load the trailer to take items to recyclable center.

SAL Dues

We are still at 117 members as of the end of February. We are always looking for new members if you know anyone who is interested let me know and I can send them an application. Dues are \$15.00 a year or you can pay \$60.00 for 5 years. If you know of anyone who is interested call me at 608 798 2113 or email me at kabohnen@chorus.net.

Saint Patrick's Pancake Breakfast - March 15th

The Saint Patrick's Pancake Breakfast is being held March 15th at the American Legion Hall from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and Doug Deaton is heading up this event. To make this event successful we need volunteers from The American Legion, Auxilary and Son's of the American Legion to pitch in and supply the help. If you can help out please contact Doug Deaton at 608 630-4633 or email him at casliti@gmail.com and let him know as we need to cover these functions:

7:15 AM to 9:45 AM

Cashiers

2 people

Kitchen

French Toast 3 people

Pancakes 3 people

Dishwashers 2 people

9:45 AM to 12:30 PM

2 people

French Toast 3 people

Pancakes 3 people

Dishwashers 2 people

Serving Food

3 people

3 people

Caring for Tables and Cleaning

4 people

4 people

